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January 3, 2008

The Honorable Robert S. Boyd
Presiding Judge
Sonoma County/Superior Court
Hall of Justice
600 Administration Drive
Santa Rosa, CA 95403

Prepared by: Claudia Rosatti, Superintendent

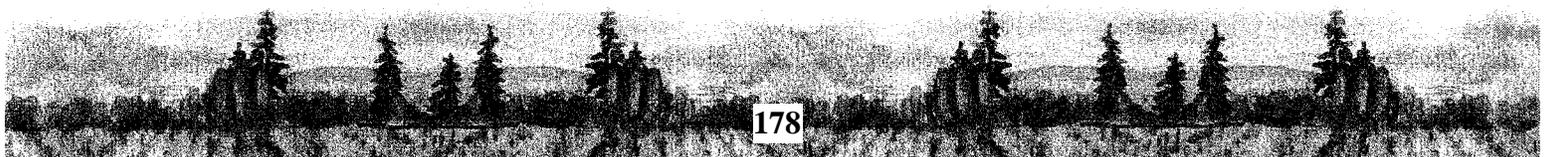
Dear Judge Boyd:

Following is Cloverdale Unified School Districts response to Grand Jury Report: " See Dick, See Jane. See Dick and Jane go to school. Are they safe?"

R1: Each public school district in Sonoma County should have at least one employee who is trained and authorized to access DOJ website within an official and specified schedule. This employee should fully understand the way in which information is to be communicated. Further in the absence of this employee, a suitable alternate person or system should be in place to responsibility retrieve valuable information as it is posted. This system should also cover notices from the DOJ sent via U.S. Mail.

The Cloverdale Unified School District agrees with the finding. The recommendation has been fully implemented. The Superintendent's Executive Assistant and another district employee have been fully trained in this area.

R4: School districts should consider changing their policies to require successful employee applicants to pay for their own fingerprinting and background responses from DOJ and FBI. There is at least \$65,000 in 06/07 school district budgets for fingerprinting. As costs are shifted to paid employees, districts could use saving to fund the cost of volunteers.



The Cloverdale Unified School District disagrees with the finding. It is already difficult to find highly qualified employees in certain categories; we do not want to make the application process more costly or cumbersome to potential applicants.

R5: School districts should amend their policies, if needed, to allow for volunteers names to be public information and readily available so that a greater security is provided.

The Cloverdale Unified School District disagrees with this finding. The Public Records Act has provisions in it, which we feel would be in conflict with the recommendation listed above.

R6: Schools should routinely check out names of adult volunteers on Megan's Law website (a public posting of sexual predators) even if fingerprinting is scheduled, and always do so if no fingerprinting is scheduled for that volunteer.

The Cloverdale Unified School District agrees with this finding and will direct principals and teachers to check for the names of their volunteers on the website, whenever practical and always when they have any suspicion about a potential volunteer.

R7: School districts should request criminal activity record from the Sonoma County Superior Courts Records Division on any adult wanting to volunteer with students. This service is available at no cost to a district.

The Cloverdale Unified School District partially disagrees with this finding. This recommendation seems somewhat impractical to implement with all volunteers and unnecessary. Our principals and teachers are directed that no volunteer works or supervises students in isolation from a district employee.

R8: School districts should, individually and collectively, request that the DOJ implement a system to confirm school district receipt of Notices of Subsequent Arrest. A system that would require the DOJ to follow up if no confirmation was received and would at least give school districts some assurance that information trusted to the U.S. Mail or electronic mail services is actually being received.

The Cloverdale Unified School District agrees with this finding and agrees to assist SCOE in writing such a letter to the DOJ on behalf of all districts. Currently, we receive notices of subsequent arrest via electronic mail and SCOE provides the district with subsequent arrest notices on substitute teachers that work in our district.

R9: School districts should request FBI responses on all classified employees and volunteers that they do a DOJ response on regardless of the time they have lived in California. The relatively small fee of \$24 to get prior criminal activity from a national database seems justifiable, reasonable and the right action to take.

The Cloverdale Unified School District disagrees with this finding. The District complies with the current law as it relates to residency requirements.

R10: School districts should require fingerprinting for all adults (paid and volunteer) involved in athletic programs, overnight field trips, off-campus field trips, and any school sponsored student activity that occurs outside of the normal school day hours.

The Cloverdale Unified School District partially agrees with this finding. All athletic coaches and paid adults are fingerprinted. The district is reviewing our policy on field trips and will take the recommendation into consideration.

R11: School districts should implement provisions of Ed. Code Section 33193 and 45125.2 requiring that certain independent contractors and employees of contractors undergo fingerprinting and background checks.

The Cloverdale Unified School District agrees with this finding and is working toward full implementation of this recommendation.

R13: School districts should not allow new employees to begin work until all pre-employment requirements are met. Most specifically, this means all fingerprinting and criminal history responses that are required must have been completed and properly evaluated.

The Cloverdale Unified School District partially agrees with this finding. If all pre-employment requirements are not met prior to beginning work, specifically the background check, the potential employee is with a fingerprinted certificated employee at all times.

R14: The Sheriff's Office should make available to all school districts information on how to access services available to them through the Sheriff's Office that would aid districts in determining if individuals should be approved to serve as volunteers in our schools and at school sponsored activities.

The Cloverdale Unified School District agrees with this finding and would be willing to disseminate such information to all employees once provided.

R15: School districts should require all volunteers to sign an agreement that outlines behavior do's and don'ts and consequences if agreement terms are broken.

The Cloverdale Unified School District agrees with this finding and will work toward full implementation.

Cc: Carl Wong, Superintendent of Schools
Dennis O'Reilly, Grand Jury Foreperson